

# EVALUATION SUMMARY



## Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Office of Policy and Evaluation

### Evaluation of the English Language Fellows Program

*The purpose of the evaluation was to assess and document the outcomes of the English Language Fellows Program and the impact of the program on American participants and their foreign students and colleagues at host colleges and universities in numerous countries. The evaluation also assessed the extent to which the program is meeting its goal of facilitating the English language skills of thousands of people in host countries.*

### Key Findings

#### ➤ Enhanced Mutual Understanding

- American Fellows report gaining a new perspective on their host countries. Fellows report gaining many new insights about the host country (53%), and a completely new understanding of the host country's culture, language, society, government and politics (40%).
- The English Language Fellows Program also results in increased understanding of U.S. society, culture and politics by Fellow's foreign students and colleagues. More than 80% of Fellows describe their influence on this enhanced understanding as extensive (33%) or moderate (51%).
- Over half of all Fellows believe they make either a significant (35%) or moderate (24%) contribution to the development of friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations between the United States and the host country.

#### ➤ Changes in Host Country Conditions

- Fellows believe their greatest contributions are to educational and cultural advancement in their host countries. Over two-thirds of all Fellows report they contribute significantly (27%) or moderately (44%) to these advancements.
- 80% of all Fellows report that the English language proficiency of their students and trainees improved either significantly (36%) or moderately (44%) during their tenure.

#### ➤ Multiplier Effect

- Each Fellow either instructs 160 or so foreign undergraduate students (English Teaching Fellows) or works to improve the host country's English teaching infrastructure (English as a Foreign Language Fellow). As a result, Fellows and their work have an impact on thousands of people annually in each host country – in both direct and indirect ways.
- 80% of Fellows maintain very active (33%) or somewhat active (48%) contact with host country students, trainees, colleagues, or friends.

**Project Information:** ORC Macro of Calverton, Maryland conducted the evaluation. The evaluation used two research methods—a survey to all (277) Fellows located who participated between 1992 and 2001, and interviews with Fellows' colleagues at 58 host institutions in eight countries. Of the 277 Fellows, 192 responded by mail, email or telephone, resulting in a 69% response rate. ORC Macro also interviewed U.S. Embassy staff in the eight countries.

**Program Information:** The English Language Fellows Program began nearly 25 years ago and has incorporated two sub-programs: English Teaching Fellows (ETFs) and English as a Foreign Language Fellows (EFLFs). Since 1992, the Bureau's Office of English Language Programs has awarded more than 600 fellowships to Americans to improve the English language of citizens in more than 100 non-English speaking countries. Fellows teach undergraduate courses, develop curricula, and train foreign educators and professionals in the use of communicative language teaching methods – all of which serve as a platform to express opinions, discuss issues, and talk about the United States and its people. Program information can be found at <http://exchanges.state.gov>.

**Contact Information:** For more information regarding this evaluation, or to request a copy of the 298-page, two-volume report, please contact the Office of Policy and Evaluation at (202) 619-5307, by fax at (202) 260-6472, by mail at State Annex 44, 301 4<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room 336, Washington, DC 20547, or by email at [evaluations@pd.state.gov](mailto:evaluations@pd.state.gov).